

in Kuwait are being forced to cross over to Iraq without proper document and are forced to face the ire of Iraqi people;

(b) if so, the steps taken in details to protect the Indian workers from above as on today; and

(c) the steps taken to control such travel agencies in detail including the action taken if any as on today?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Instances of diversion to Iraq of Indian workers actually recruited for Kuwait have come to notice. In many cases Kuwait based companies forced the workers to go to Iraq, while, in some cases the workers have been reported to have gone to Iraq on their own.

(b) The Government of India has imposed a ban on travel of Indian nationals to Iraq keeping in view the security situation. The Government has from time to time given publicity through the media requesting the Indian nationals not to go to Iraq. Embassy of India, Kuwait have also requested the Kuwait companies to honour the decision of Government of India. For emigration clearance to the workers going to Kuwait, attestation of employment documents by the Indian Mission has been made mandatory.

(c) As and when such instances come to notice, action is taken against the erring agent under Section 14 of the Emigration Act, 1983. In the case of unregistered/illegal Recruiting Agents, the concerned State police authorities are advised to take action to prosecute them under the Emigration Act, 1983. During the year, as per records available, 23 cases of unregistered Recruiting Agents have been referred to the Police authorities for penal action. Besides, action has been taken against 05 registered Recruiting Agents under the Emigration Act, 1983.

Killings of Indian working abroad

1712. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the abduction and killings of Indians working abroad have increased in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof since last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that number of unauthorized placement agencies are working and sending workers abroad;

(d) the total number of workers working in Gulf countries and non-gulf countries with work permits, country-wise; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating any comprehensive plan to take up the matter with the respective Governments?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Indian Missions in Gulf and some of the non Gulf countries with large number of Indian workers, no cases of abduction and killings have been reported in last five years.

(c) As per Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983, no person can function as a recruiting agent or carry on the business of recruitment except under and in accordance with a certificate issued in that behalf by the registering authority. As and when such unauthorised agencies come to notice, the matter is referred to the State police authorities for action under Section 24 of the Emigration Act, 1983.

(d) The details of Indian workers with or without work permit in these countries are as under:

Bahrain	—	2,03,573 (with permit) (upto 31.3.06)
Oman	—	3,66,000 (approx.)
Kuwait	—	4,68,777 (with work permit) (as on 31.08.06)
UAE	—	1.3 million (with or without permit)
Saudi Arabia	—	12,39,686 (as on Feb, 05)
Malaysia	—	1,37,636
Yemen	—	8000 (approx.).
Jordan	—	3938 (Nov, 06)
Mauritius	—	9780 (as per total no. of permits issued on 28.11.06)

(e) Yes, Sir. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral cooperation for protection of Indian workers has already been signed with Jordan and Qatar. Similar MoUs are contemplated with some other Gulf countries and Malaysia.

Overseas Indian Centre at Dubai

1713. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give approval to set up Overseas Indian Centre at Dubai;

(b) if so, the details of facilities the overseas Indians can expect from this centre;

(c) whether there is any proposal from Government to start such centres in other parts of the Gulf region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?